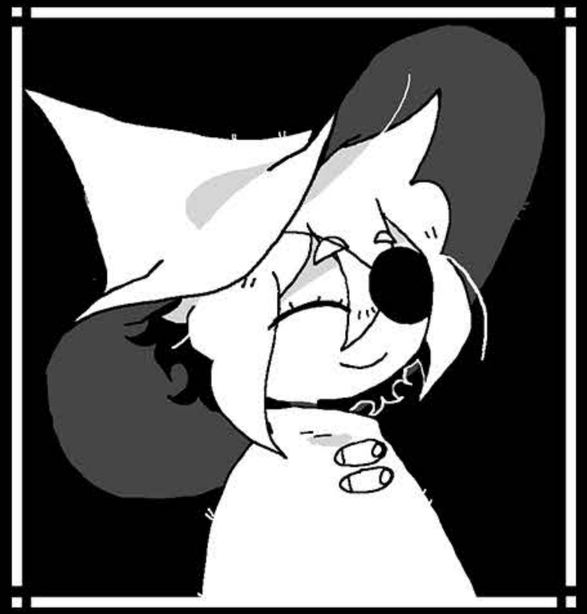
START AGAIN
START AGAIN
START AGAIN
a prologue
(an art book)
INSERTDISC5

(this artbook has spoilers
so maybe finish the game first.
get to the credits!)

(or don't im not your parent)



THE TRAVELER / Siffrin (he/they)

-Mid-twenties
-Really likes theater!
-Doesn't like potatoes... But likes fries
-Perceptive, but kind of forgetful

THE HOUSEMAIDEN / Mirabelle (she)

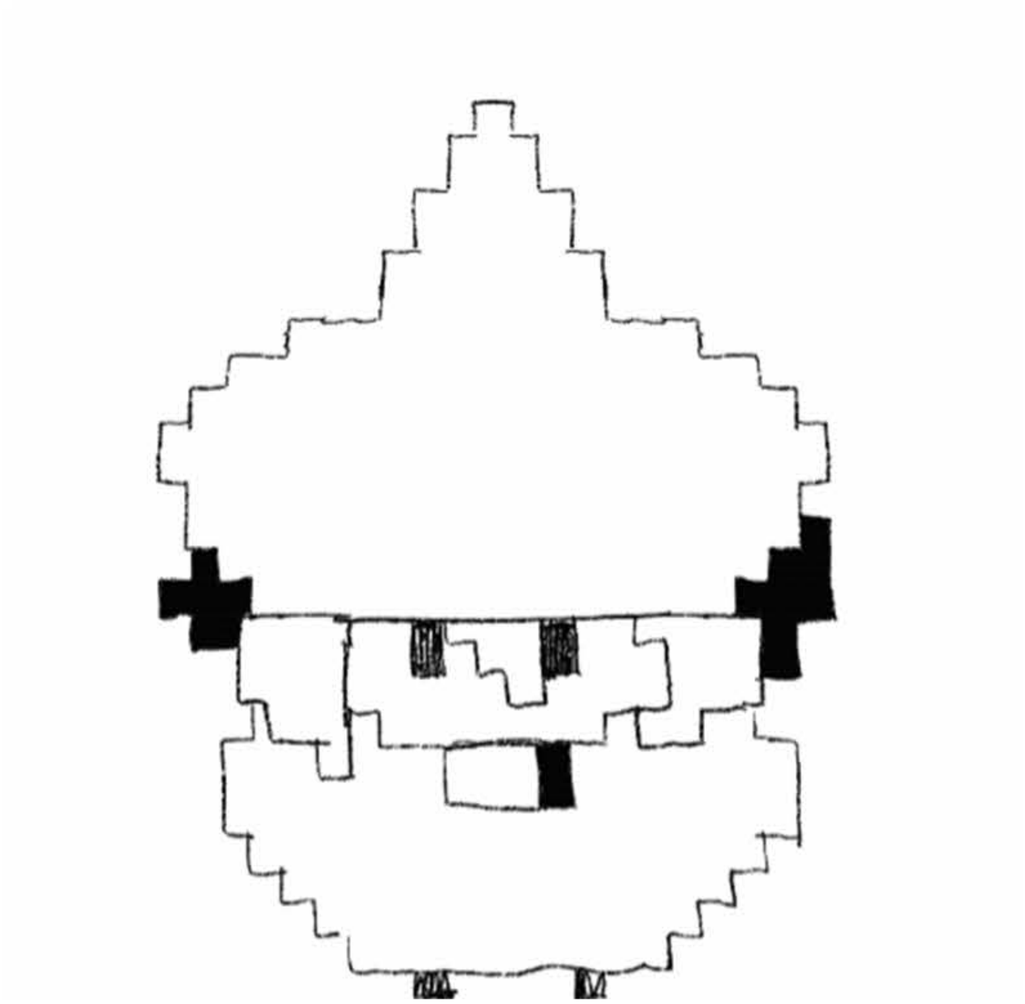
-Early twenties
-HORROR FAN. Reads some truly unerving stuff
-Jumps from one interest to the other really quickly
-Collects mirabelle plum scented items

THE FIGHTER / Isabeau (he)
-Early/mid twenties
-Likes non-fiction
-Very loud, ON PURPOSE
-Really interested in fashion! Wants to buy some new clothes soon...

THE TEACHER / Odile (she)
-In her forties
-Really likes fairytales, actually.
-Things her research isnt about: craftology, literature, local fauna, cutlery, keys
-Maxed out her perception skill

THE KID / Bonnie (they)
-Kid Age
-Likes comic books
-Runs hot and doesn't get cold ever. Everyone's favorite hot water bottle
-Does NOT like their full name

THE KING / ??? (he)
-Well crab what's up with this guy???



Very First Very Special Concept Art

This is the very first drawing I did with the knowledge that I was gonna make a video game... Pixelly! Cute!

Concept Art

This was some of the first things I made for the game... I wanted to figure out what the visuals would look like! I ended up not keeping the big visual novel-like portraits

Main Characters Art

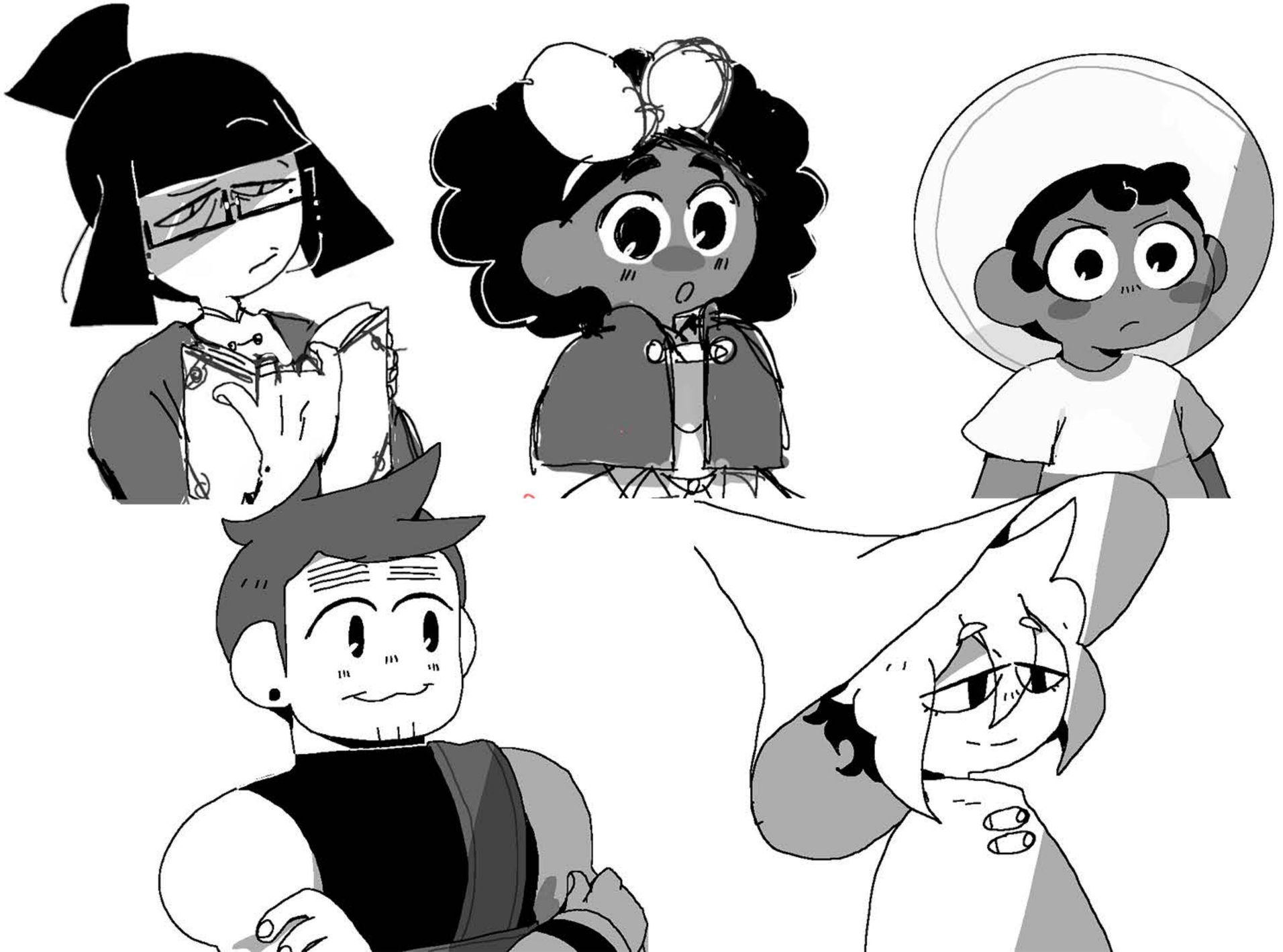
The very first time I drew the rest of the team! They didn't change that much... Just had to refine their designs a bunch. The teacher was BY FAR the hardest to figure out, her clothes were a nightmare to imagine

Main Characters Art

Second time I drew them! To figure out their clothes! I drew Siffrin last and I was like “oops! sh*t! i dont know how to draw them with a more realistic style! Which brings us to.....

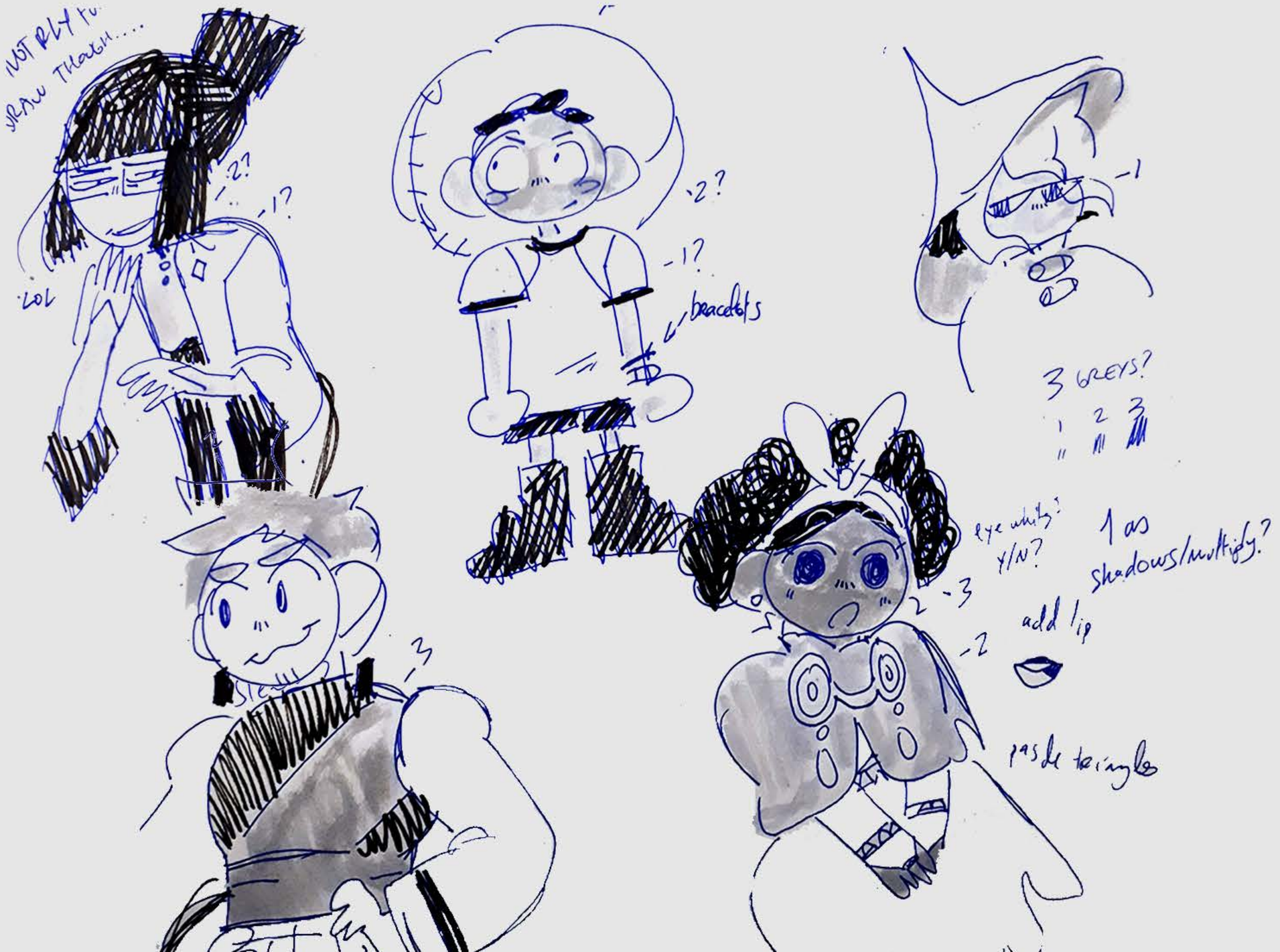
Main Character Art

...this third rough sketch. Chibis. Okay it's easier. It's easier to draw them like this. Woop woop! At this point I had the fighter figured out but it would be many more moons before I figured out the rest



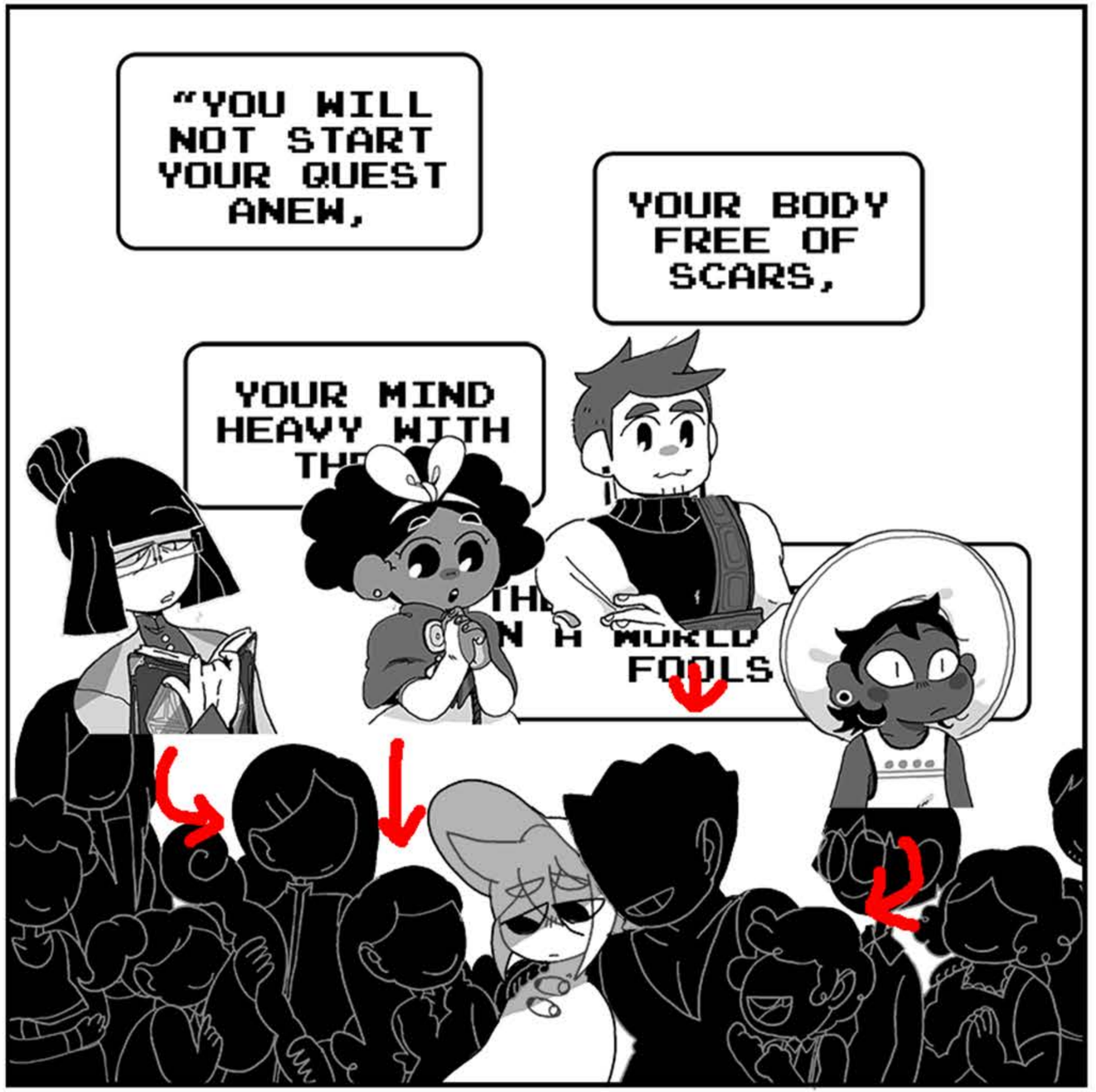
Concept Art

Portrait placeholders I used before everyone's design was set...
I really really hate the fighter's eyebrows here, and the kid looked too generic and similar to the housemaiden. GLAD I CHANGED IT



Concept Art

One of the first pages I did with (most of) the characters' designs figured out! The Kid's final design came in pretty late...



Secret Lore

Yeah.

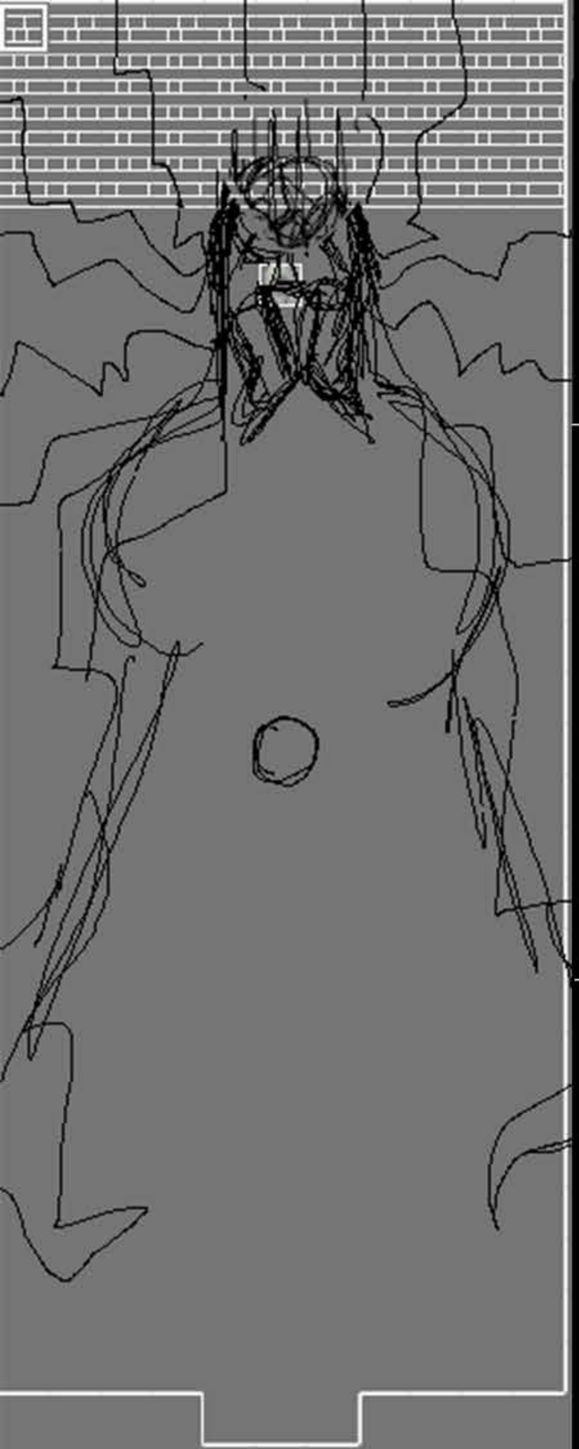
No joke though I did use the comics as kind of a bible? Like "ok i drew those characters let's make them important, I used this symbol a lot let's make it mean something, the comic said this so let's use this as a base". Kinda funny to use my own comics as inspiration

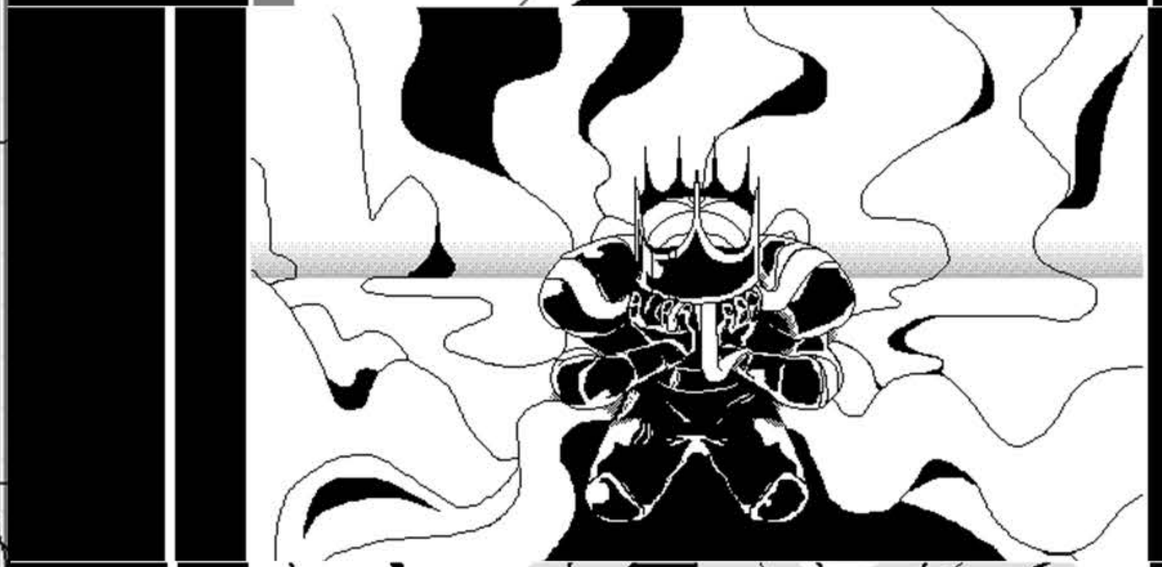
Siffrin portraits

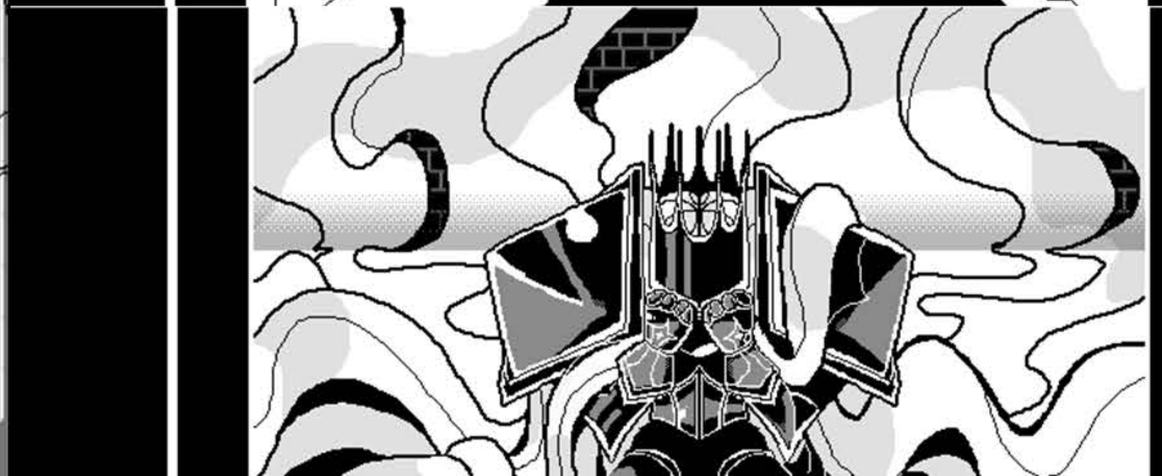
Siffrin's portraits, from oldest to newest...
Had a tough time figuring out the hat lol.
Also spent some time figuring out whether to add shadows or not

Bonus

I ended up not using this portrait and thats a dang shame.

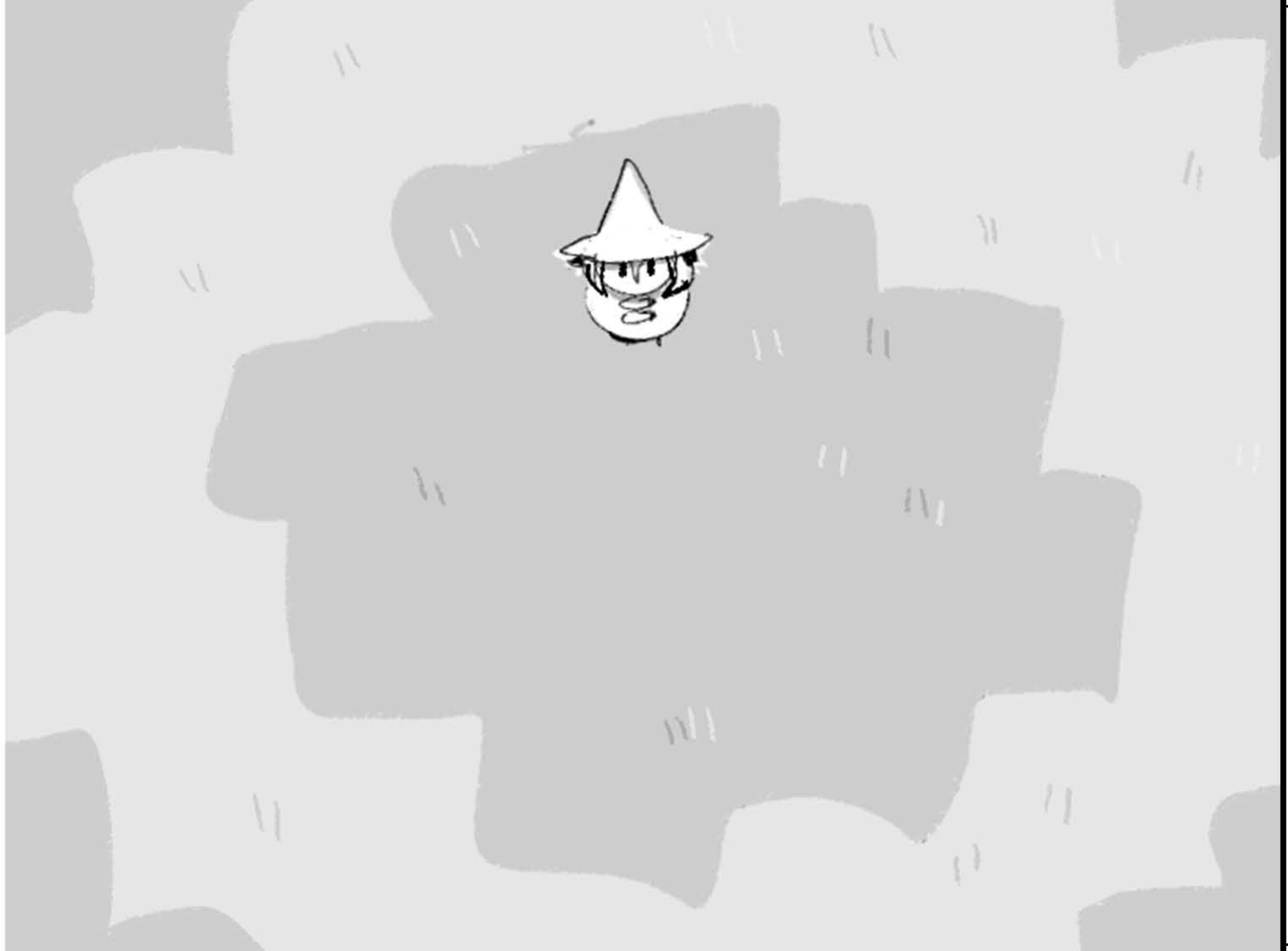






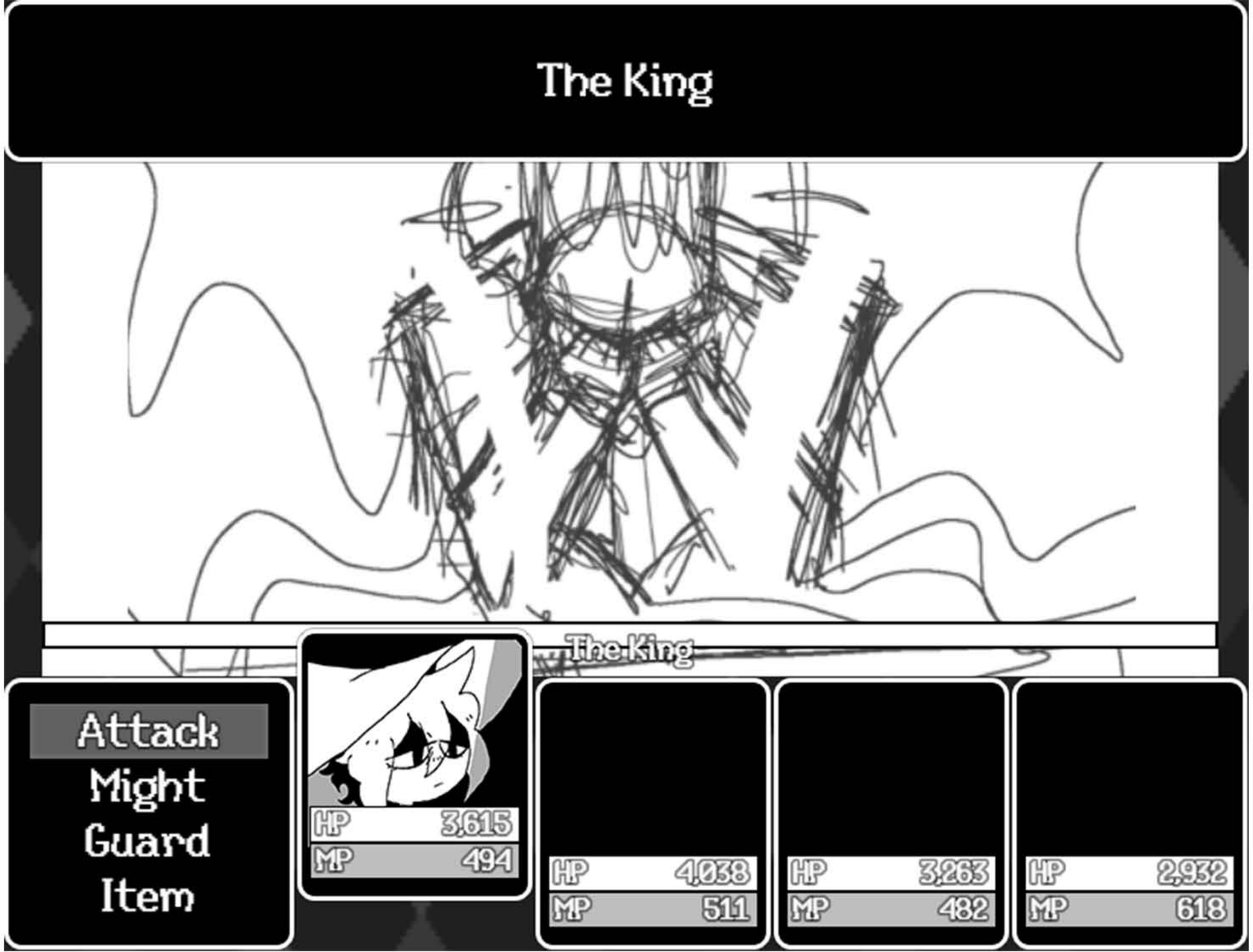
King Room

King room's progress!
The King himself went through a bunch of changes...
I wanted him to have somewhat realistic armor at the start but that's boring.
The long hair was here from the start though!



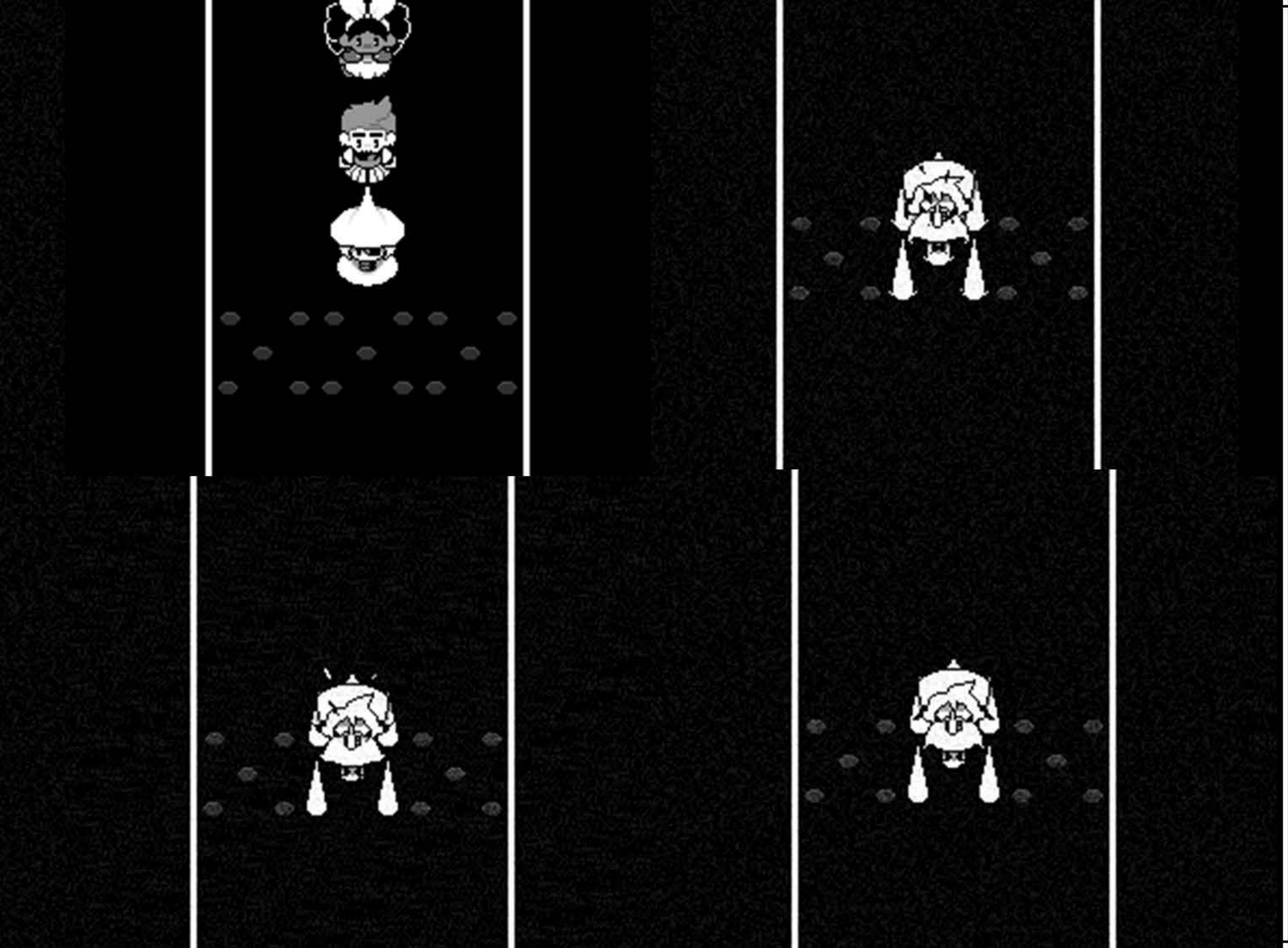
Meadow Concept Art

The meadow!
It was in one of the comics teehee.
I never put much effort into my concept art, which is a blessing (fast! effortless!) and a curse (im making an art book)



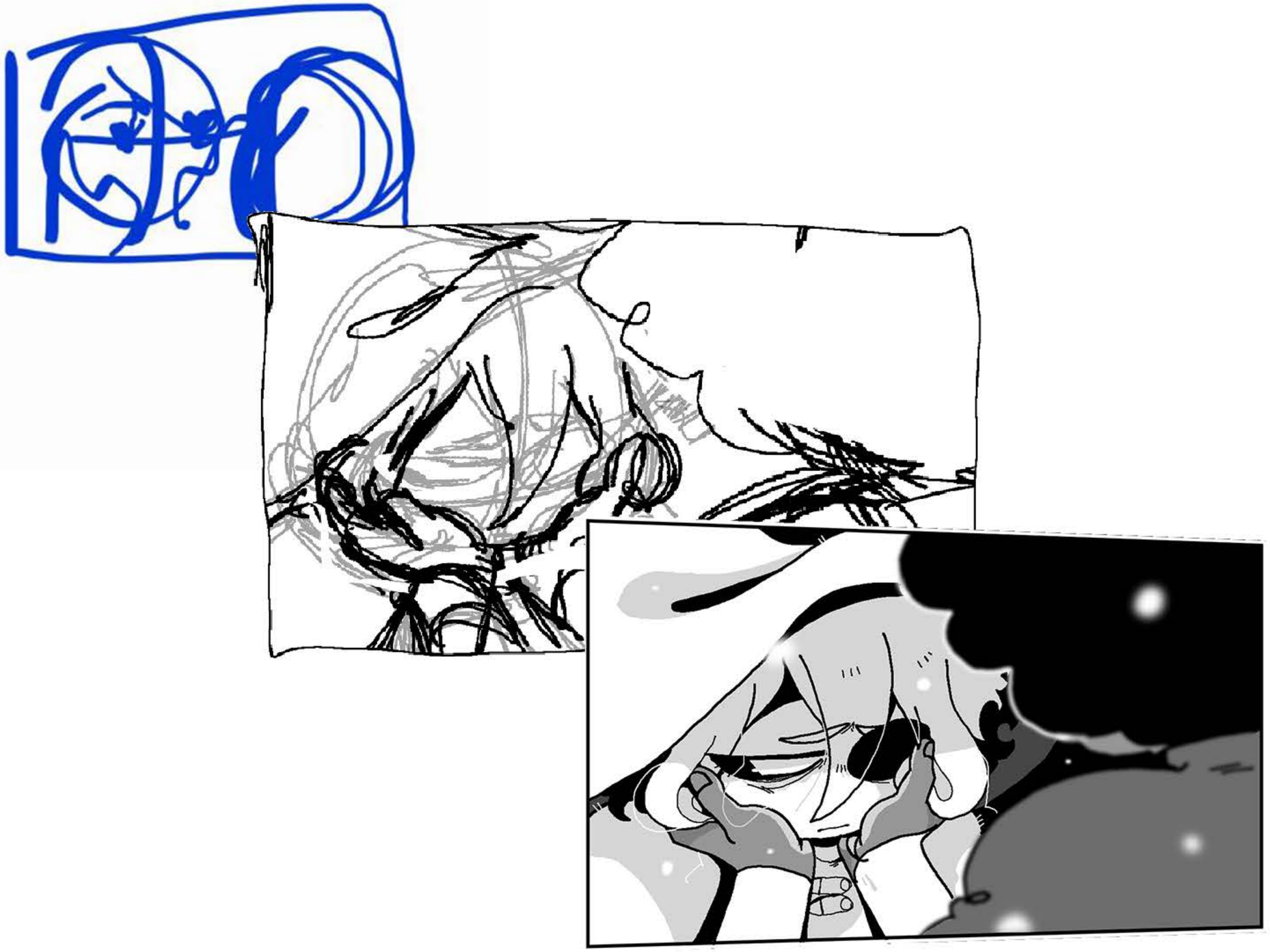
Early battle screen

Woomp woomp.
Slowly starting to figure out how this rpgmaker thing works



Spikes

Before I added the tears I had spikes block your way, and you'd need to go find the switches to turn them off...
I made an event for them, but they didn't fit the story, so TO THE SCRAP PILE YOU GO



Process

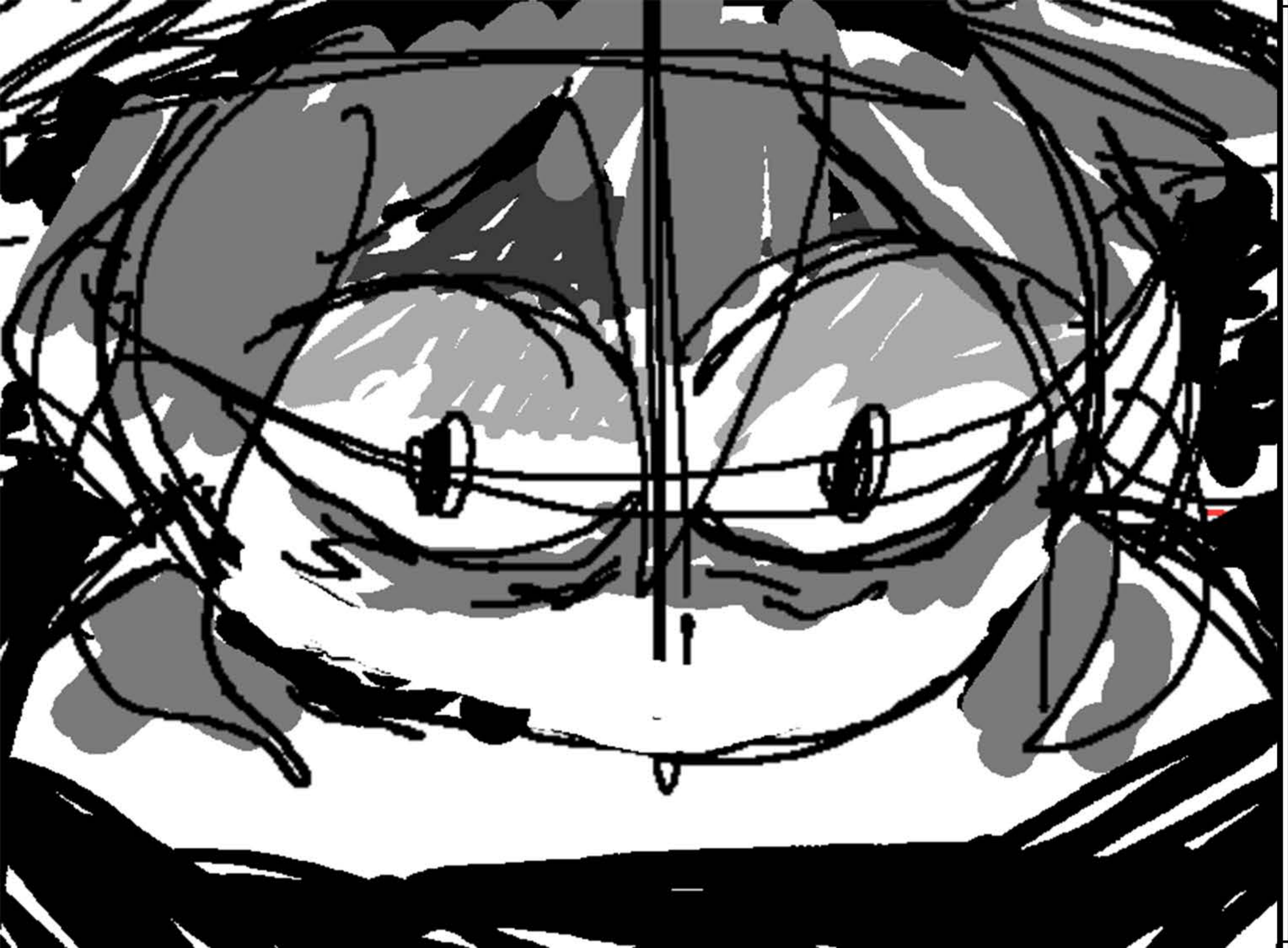
Rough sketch I drew with my fingies on my phone + rough lines + finished illustration. Sometimes you see an image in crisp detail in your brain and you gotta run to draw it somewhere before it escapes.

Intro Art

Redid those a bunch...
First I didn't like the angle, and then months later I was like "this looks.....
SOOOOO BORINNNNNNG AM I A COMIC ARTIST OR WHAT" so i injected more Emotion more Subtlety more "why is this guy smiling after looping back" (spoilers it's trauma)

Fighter Menu Illustration

Scrapped illustration for the fighter's menu profile. Everyone else had a nice dynamic pose while he was just like "hehe im also here, standing there"



Bathroom Illustration

Scrapped illustration for the “going to the bathroom” scene. The text alone works better. And also since Siffrin is in the bathroom it wouldve been prime content for ppl making “Siffrin dropping a MAD SH*T” jokes

Bathroom Illustration .....2!!!

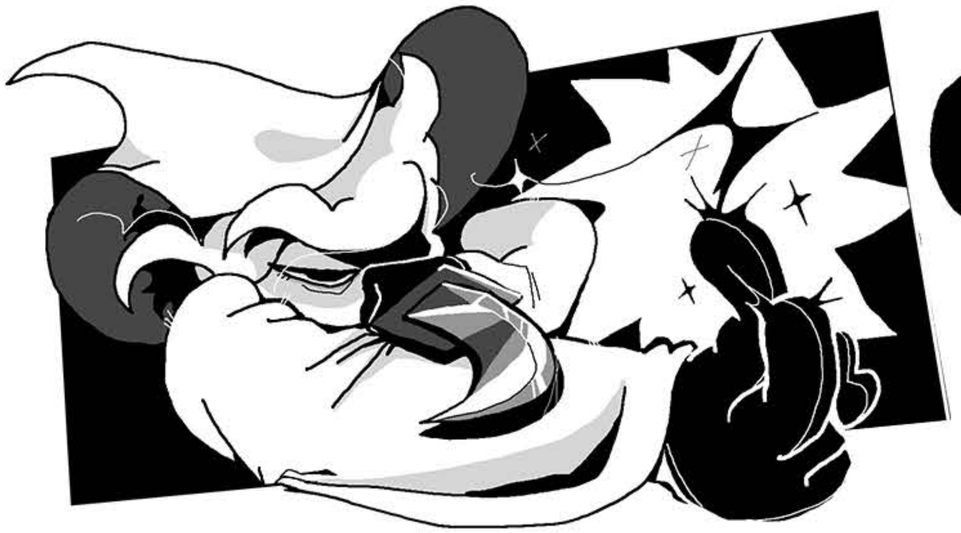
Another scrapped illustration, this time if you waited outside. It was interesting to figure out the right balance between illustrations or just letting the video game graphics do the talking... I like the latter because it allows for more interpretation

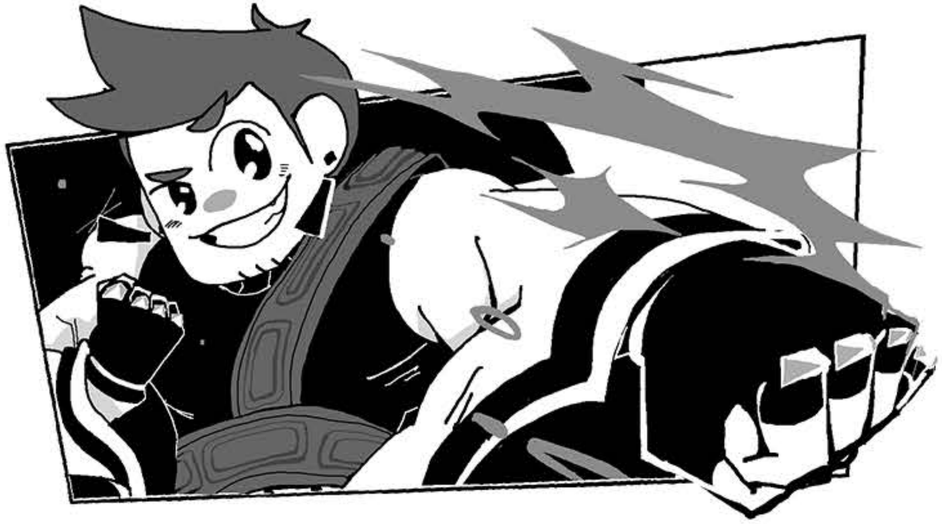
King Final Attack

Scrapped concept for the King's final attack... I was just too lazy to implement it tbh

Ending Illustration

Scrapped illustration for the ending...
I felt like having the normal in game graphics while she says “Tomorrow we’re gonna fight the king!” was like. More impactful somehow. because for her it’s a normal thing to say!
The impact comes from the Knowing and the illustration took away from that a bit imo



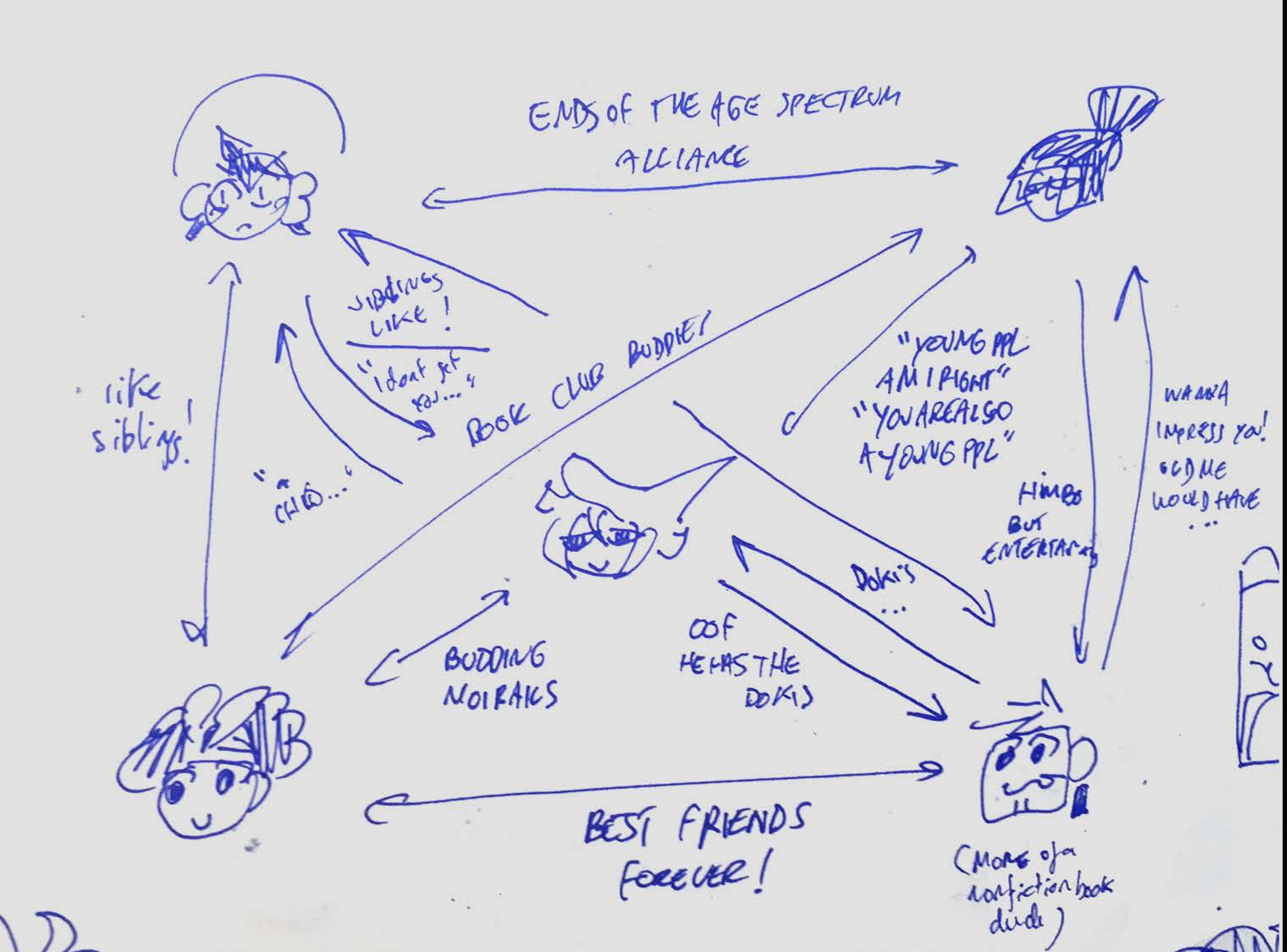


Attack Cut-ins

Pew pew pew!!! Those were really fun to draw!!! Also figuring out the differences in visuals for each of their craft... The Housemaiden and the fighter are both from Vaugarde so it looks very similar!

Attempts At Sculpting

I always have trouble figuring out the angle for Siffrin's hat so I made some Siffrin heads out of poster putty.
I should buy some modeling clay...



Relationship Chart

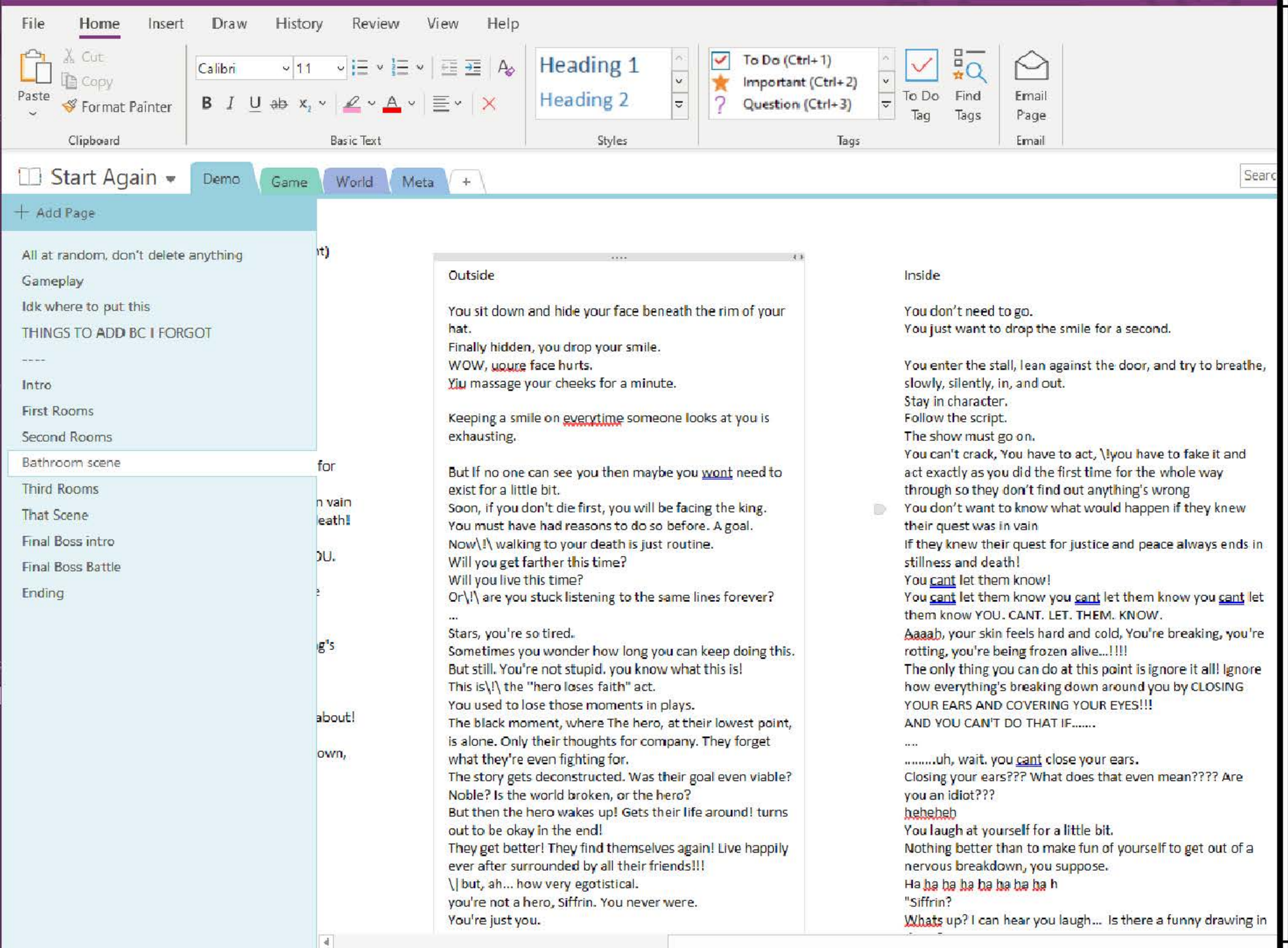
A quick chart of the relationships between the characters! I wanted to make sure I knew what each character thought of the others. Their relationships are more subtle/deeper than what I wrote but this was a good starting point! Hope you can read my handwriting

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TOUCHED IN LOOPS.

YOU JUST WANT TO DANCE WITH SOMEONE! ANYONE!

Little Comic

I drew a bunch of small comics in the notebook I kept for the game...
A lot of barely hidden lockdown feelsIIIIII MEAN, normal Sif musings in there.
But yeah honestly this game has been great to get my mind off being locked at home for almost a year now... Some moments in the game are just me processing the lockdown lol


File
Home
Insert
Draw
History
Review
View
Help
Paste
Cut
Copy
Format Painter
Clipboard
Calibri
11
Basic Text
Heading 1
Heading 2
Styles
To Do (Ctrl+1)
Important (Ctrl+2)
Question (Ctrl+3)
To Do Tag
Find Tags
Tags
Email Page
Email
Start Again
Demo
Game
World
Meta
Add Page
All at random, don't delete anything
Gameplay
Idk where to put this
THINGS TO ADD BC I FORGOT

Intro
First Rooms
Second Rooms
Bathroom scene
Third Rooms
That Scene
Final Boss intro
Final Boss Battle
Ending
Outside
You sit down and hide your face beneath the rim of your hat.
Finally hidden, you drop your smile.
WOW, uoure face hurts.
Yiu massage your cheeks for a minute.
Keeping a smile on everytime someone looks at you is exhausting.
But If no one can see you then maybe you wont need to exist for a little bit.
Soon, if you don't die first, you will be facing the king.
You must have had reasons to do so before. A goal.
Now\!\ walking to your death is just routine.
Will you get farther this time?
Will you live this time?
Or\!\ are you stuck listening to the same lines forever?
...
Stars, you're so tired.
Sometimes you wonder how long you can keep doing this.
But still. You're not stupid. you know what this is!
This is\!\ the "hero loses faith" act.
You used to lose those moments in plays.
The black moment, where The hero, at their lowest point, is alone. Only their thoughts for company. They forget what they're even fighting for.
The story gets deconstructed. Was their goal even viable? Noble? Is the world broken, or the hero?
But then the hero wakes up! Gets their life around! turns out to be okay in the end!
They get better! They find themselves again! Live happily ever after surrounded by all their friends!!!
\| but, ah... how very egotistical.
you're not a hero, Siffrin. You never were.
You're just you.
Inside
You don't need to go.
You just want to drop the smile for a second.
You enter the stall, lean against the door, and try to breathe, slowly, silently, in, and out.
Stay in character.
Follow the script.
The show must go on.
You can't crack, You have to act, \!you have to fake it and act exactly as you did the first time for the whole way through so they don't find out anything's wrong
You don't want to know what would happen if they knew their quest was in vain
If they knew their quest for justice and peace always ends in stillness and death!
You cant let them know!
You cant let them know you cant let them know you cant let them know YOU. CANT. LET. THEM. KNOW.
Aaaah, your skin feels hard and cold, You're breaking, you're rotting, you're being frozen alive...!!!!
The only thing you can do at this point is ignore it all! Ignore how everything's breaking down around you by CLOSING YOUR EARS AND COVERING YOUR EYES!!!
AND YOU CAN'T DO THAT IF.....
....
.....uh, wait. you cant close your ears.
Closing your ears??? What does that even mean???? Are you an idiot???
heheheh
You laugh at yourself for a little bit.
Nothing better than to make fun of yourself to get out of a nervous breakdown, you suppose.
Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha h
"Siffrin?
Whats up? I can hear you laugh... Is there a funny drawing in

Takin' notes

Good ol' OneN*te. It's actually really good to organize a massive amount of notes I recommend it heartily.
I have a really long section (not shown here) where I dump all my ideas and I try to go thru it and organize it every few weeks...

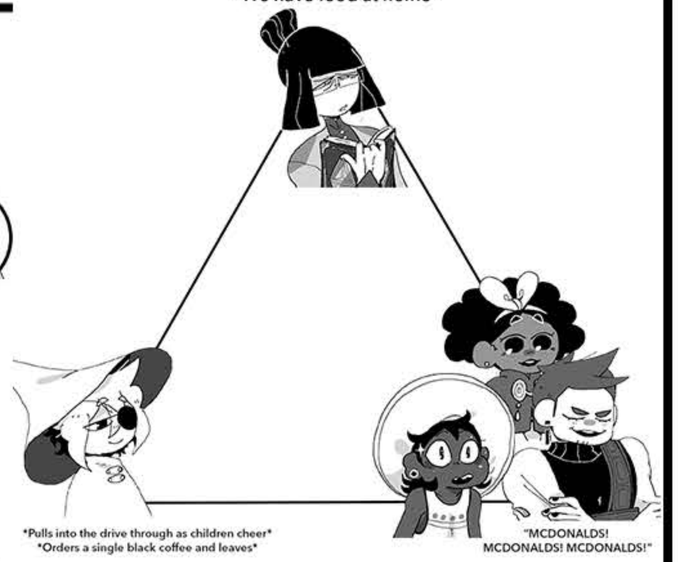
This is crazy,
but I'm having feelings again.

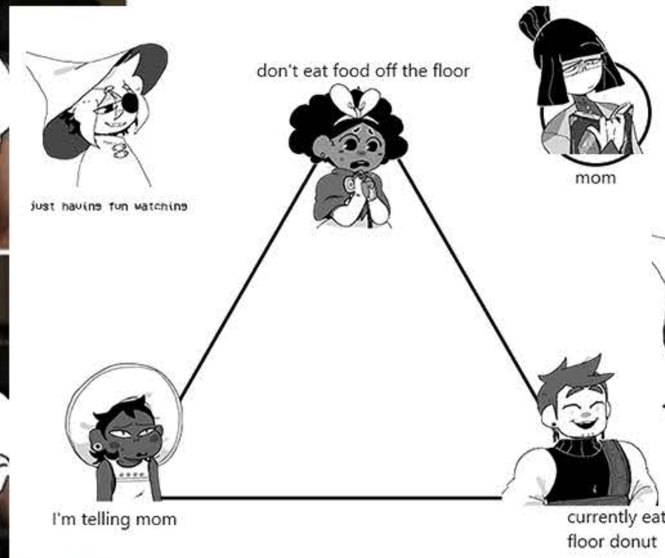
Like some kind of
14-year-old kid or something.
You remember feelings, right?

Yeah. I have feelings
every single day of my life.

Do you?
Are you saying you
don't have feelings?

bold of you to assume
how dare you assume
please assume
I'm functional
I'm a genius
I like hugs


CHILDREN YELLING: MCDONALDS! MCDONALDS! MCDONALDS!
"We have food at home"
Pulls into the drive through as children cheer
Orders a single black coffee and leaves
"MCDONALDS!
MCDONALDS! MCDONALDS!"


don't eat food off the floor
mom
just having fun watching
I'm telling mom
currently eating
floor donut

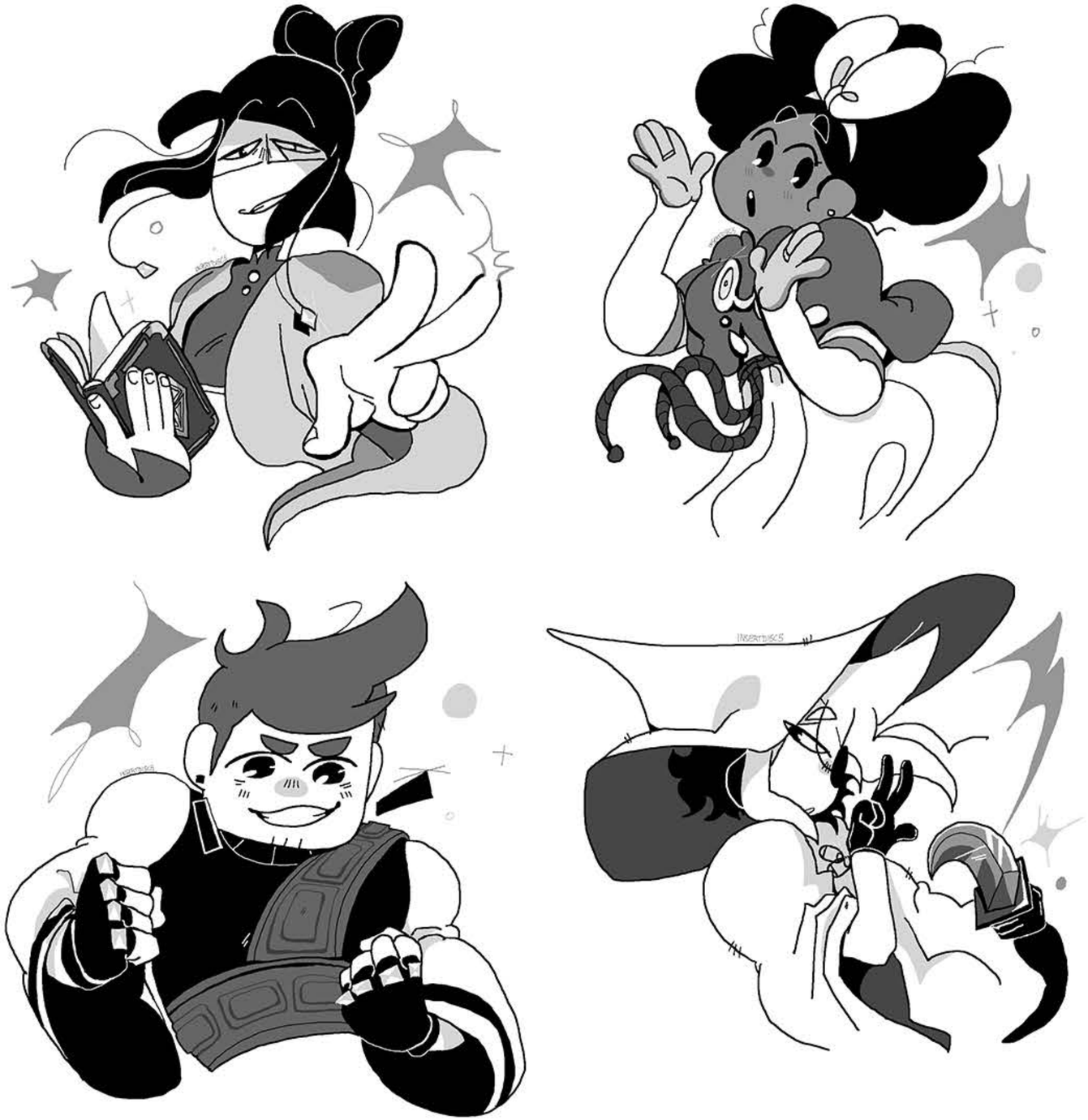
me at
the idea of
making memes
instead of
enjoying
other ppl's
great memes
making
memes
as a
character
building
excercise

Promo Art

Promo art I ended up not using

Speshul Art

Speshul art I did for some speshul friends. If you see this I guess you're speshul too now.
Also the Snacks Scene had a few iterations because I had trouble picking the snacks. I miss potatoless samoussas and palmiers. I wonder how many people know what palmiers even are? I'm legit curious drop a comment and subscri



Pwomo awt

This style is kind of different from the game...
It's cute...
The Housemaiden actually looks like the adult she is...
The kid isn't here because I haven't drawn them in a dynamic pose yet...
Sorry kiddo...

START AGAIN: A PROLOGUE IS OUT NOW!!!

Release Art

Ok I wrote the whole artbook before the game released but today, the day I'm writing this, is the release date. The response has been so genuinely moving and I'm really glad this little game made people feel Things. Thank you so much for your support and if you've screamed "OH MY GOD THIS PART" at me even once I love you so so much. Confettis

(movie trailer BWOOOOOM)

Anonymous said to insertdisc5:

5:08 PM - 2 hours ago

any distant plans for a sequel to start again? i just finished it with the true ending and it SLAPS

(yeah im working on it)

- the end